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PFLP DELEGATION ENDS TALKS WITH CUBAN OFFICIALS

JN251345Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Political talks between a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, and officials of the Cuban Government and Cuban Communist Party ended last evening in Havana. A proclamation issued in Havana today stated that the talks dealt with the current situation of the Palestinian question and relations between the PFLP and Cuba.

PLO REACTS TO LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY AGREEMENT

JN251507Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1412 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 April--The PLO has affirmed its determination to respect Lebanon's sovereignty and not to interfere in its domestic affairs. In a statement issued today following an emergency meeting by the Executive Council which discussed the decision of the Lebanese parliamentary committee, the PLO said that it adheres to the agreements it has concluded with the Lebanese authorities.

The PLO statement stressed that the Palestinian armed presence "is not an internal problem for this or that Arab country, because this presence enjoys a pan-Arab nature in the Arab-Zionist conflict." The statement further explained that "as long as the Zionist occupation of Palestinian and other Arab land continues, nobody has the right to take a decision regarding this pan-Arab and fateful subject."

The PLO said: "The Cairo Agreement and its addenda have regulated Palestinian-Lebanese relations." It added that it is eager to uphold these agreements. The statement confirmed the PLO's concern for Lebanon's security and independence, its guarantee to provide all the facilities within its power to enable the Lebanese authorities to exercise their power on all their territory in order to end the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon and its desire to facilitate the mission of the UNIFIL to supervise the withdrawal of the Zionist forces as soon as possible.

The PLO believes that at this difficult period efforts should focus on confronting the Zionist occupation and not allowing the enemy to use this occupation for purposes of blackmail, pressure or diverting attention away from it and its gravity.

In conclusion, the PLO statement affirmed the PLO's readiness to hold negotiations with the Lebanese authority to facilitate its task and regulate relations between them, after ending the Zionist occupation of the Lebanese territories.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN CITES FEDAYEEN OPERATION

JN251602Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 April--The Palestinian fighters last night carried out three fedayeen operations inside the occupied Arab territories. In these operations a number of enemy personnel were killed and wounded and the fighters inflicted heavy material damage on the enemy. Announcing this today, a Palestinian military spokesman said that a Palestinian fighter placed an explosive device under a Zionist vehicle in Jerusalem. The explosion destroyed the car and broke the glass in nearby buildings. Another fighter hurled an incendiary bomb at an enemy patrol car on the Haifa-Nabulus road. The car was directly hit and all its occupants were killed or injured. Another fighter attacked a bus on its way to a Jerusalem suburb. The bus went up in flames and the driver and his assistant were injured.

QATAR

TUNISIAN PRESIDENT'S SON ARRIVES FOR 5-DAY VISIT

NC260850Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 26 April--Habib Bourguiba, Junior, adviser to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, arrived in Doha from Kuwait this morning on a 5-day visit to Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEPUTY PREMIER STRESSES NEED FOR ARAB UNITY

LD251807Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Apr 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has reaffirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia places all of its forces and capabilities available to serve the cause of Arab rights and honor.

In an interview with Paris MATCH published today by AR-RIYAD, he said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia allocates every year $8 billion for the training of its army, not only for the defense of the kingdom, but so that this army can intervene at any place when national duty makes this necessary. His Royal Highness Prince Fahd said Israel should now accept either a just peace, which the Arabs want, or war. He added that, if Israel does not take this opportunity to restore peace, this may lead to a reaction that will prove to be destructive for Israel. He also said that Arab strategy is solidarity and sincere will in confronting the enemy together.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd reaffirmed that what is taking place today is serious, and the Arab peoples have the right to ask themselves questions. He pointed out that the Arab nation is not only this present generation but all the coming generations; the Arab nation needs not only unity but a deep and serious dialog.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd spoke about oil and said that it is not an ordinary commodity to be used in the political market at any moment. He said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia refuses to allow excessive increases in oil prices, thus sacrificing its own interest; it has put up with (?criticism) from its friends in OPEC for the sake of preserving the world economy. His royal highness reaffirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia draws up its policy and takes its decisions in accordance with the interests and national issues of the Arab nation; it will not cease to make the necessary efforts to restore Arab unity so that the Arab nation can triumph.

KING KHALID RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM AS-SADAT

JN251504Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 25 April--His Majesty King Khalid received in his office at Al-Ma'dhar Palace at 1200 today Dr Ashraf Marwan, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab industries organization. During the meeting, Marwan conveyed to his majesty the king a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and head of the national guard, and Dr Rashad Far'un, personal adviser to his majesty the king.

Dr Ashraf Marwan arrived in Riyadh yesterday evening.

JORDANIAN CULTURE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

JN241320Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1104 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 24 April--His Excellency Shaykh Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir, minister of planning, met today with Jordanian Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, who is currently visiting the kingdom. Following the meeting, the Jordanian minister was briefed on the kingdom's development plan.

The Jordanian minister of culture and youth arrived in Riyadh last evening on a 5-day official visit at the invitation of His Highness Prince Faysal ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, director general of youth.

Received by Prince Salman

JN241322Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 24 April--His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, governor of Riyadh, this afternoon received Jordanian Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf. The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Faysal ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, director general of youth.

During the meeting Prince Salman stressed the importance of meetings between officials of the two countries to strengthen relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

RULER OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH ARRIVES IN RIYADH

JN251820Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 25 April--His Highness Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, ruler of Ras al-Khaimah, arrived in Riyadh at 1945 this evening on a visit to the kingdom. He was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, the amir of Riyadh.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES IN DAKAR REPORTED

JN242054Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Dakar, 24 April--His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and head of the kingdom's delegation to the ninth Islamic Foreign Ministers conference currently being held in Dakar, today met with Dr Muhammad Hafiz Ghanim, Egyptian deputy prime minister for social development and services and head of the Egyptian delegation. He also met with 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, Qatari minister of labor and social affairs and head of the Qatari delegation to the conference.

The two meetings were held within the framework of the contacts and consultation which his highness is holding with the heads of the delegations to discuss common issues and stands at the conference.

UAE

PRESIDENT SUPPORTS ARAB SOLIDARITY MEETING

JN2310llY Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0856 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 23 April--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has declared that his country pins great hopes on the success of the Arab solidarity committee headed by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. President Zayid said that he gave instructions to the representatives of his state to the meetings of the Arab solidarity committee to inform the committee that the UAE is prepared to perform any duty and to make every endeavor for the sake of reunity and the unity of ranks.

This came in an exclusive interview President Zayid granted to the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published today.

Asked about coordination among the Arab Gulf states in the fields of security and economy, President Zayid said: Those who have ambitions in our Arab nation are the same ones who have ambitions in our Arab Gulf because the latter is an inseparable part of the Arab nation. President Zayid affirmed that his country has every desire for coordination among the Gulf states--a coordination which can strengthen the unity of the area whether in the field of economy or security or in any other field leading to unity and a united stand.

Asked about the unity situation of the UAE, President Zayid said he believes that all the gulf should be united because this will insure a strong, impregnable gulf. He added: Our unity here is inspired by this hope which is based on having a power capable of performing its duties in every field.

Shaykh Zayid affirmed that the unity of the gulf needs action and sacrifice and that this area has all the resources to achieve its national aspirations and the unity of its goals.

Asked about relations with the Sultanate of Oman, President Zayid said: All that was written and is being written about this question is not worth mentioning. We are ready to reach an understanding and to sit down to discuss and reach a (?solution) that would satisfy everyone.

Shaykh Zayid affirmed that his country tries to avoid everything that would harm its relations with Oman and that the brothers in Oman are eager to overcome all sensitivities and differences.

YAR DEVELOPMENT MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

JN2015444Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1425 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 April--Muhammad Salim al-Basindwa, YAR minister of development, left here at noon today following a 1-week visit to the UAE, during which he held talks with officials on the UAE contribution to the Yemeni development plan.

YEMEN--PDRY

BRITISH LABOR PARTY DELEGATION RECEIVED

LD231942Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Muhammad Salih Muti', member of the Politburo and foreign minister, received at his office this morning the British parliamentary delegation which belongs to the ruling Labor Party.

He discussed with the delegation bilateral relations between the two countries and the methods of developing them. The delegation arrived in the PDRY yesterday for a visit to the republic which will last for several days, during which time it will hold talks with officials of the state.

Delegation Leaves

LD241904Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] The British parliamentary delegation of the Labor Party left Aden today following a short visit to the republic lasting 2 days.

During its visit the delegation met the brother chairman of the Presidential Council, the brother foreign minister, and the brother under secretaries of the Ministries of Planning and of Trade and Supply. This is the first visit by a British parliamentary delegation to Democratic Yemen since its independence.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Brother (Azzan Shadhili), director of the Department of Western Europe and North America, at the Foreign Ministry.

COMMUNIST PARTY MAY BE ANNOUNCED ON 1 MAY

NC260857Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0811 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 26 April--Quoting Arab diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH says today that the establishment of a communist party might be announced in Aden on 1 May as part of the PDRY's Labor Day celebrations.

Quoting the same sources, the paper says that according to Soviet information, the expected Yemeni Communist Party might be announced officially in order to provide it with an opportunity to enter the Yemeni Government and be represented in it by one minister or more.

The paper notes that the announcement of the Yemeni Communist Party comes as part of a multilateral cooperation deal between the PDRY and the Soviet Union.

YEMEN--YAR

NEW CABINET REPORTEDLY TO BE FORMED SOON

JN242024Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1955 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 24 April--It is hoped that the formation of the new cabinet in the YAR, to be headed by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, who has begun his consultations on the formation of the cabinet, will be announced within the next 48 hours.

It is expected that a new Defense Ministry will be created in the cabinet, while the ministers of foreign affairs, development, education, economy, public works, and health will retain their portfolios.

BRIEFS

SAUDI LOAN TO GABON--Riyadh, 24 April--An agreement was signed in Riyadh today whereby the Saudi Fund for Development will extend a loan to Gabon amounting to 70.6 million riyals, equivalent to $20.5 million, to contribute to the financing of a project for a railroad which will pass through Gabon. The 690-km railroad will cost $1.35 billion. [Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN]

AS-SADAT TO SPEAK AT 2 MAY LABOR DAY RALLY

NC260755Y Cairo [illegible] Arabic 1735 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 April--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that President Anwar as-Sadat will deliver an important speech during the labor day celebrations to be held by the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions on Tuesday.

The celebrations, which will be held at the labor social establishment, will be attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, People's Assembly Speaker Eng Sayyid Mar'i, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, prominent personalities, the members of the People's Assembly and 20,000 workers representing all sectors.

Further Details of Rally

NC251824Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will attend workers day celebrations next Tuesday in Shubra al-Khaymah. Our correspondent Sa'd 'Awad gives more details in the following report: [begin recording]

President Anwar as-Sadat is accustomed each year to attend the workers' May Day celebration. Shubra al-Khaymah was chosen this year in appreciation of the role its workers are playing in bolstering production, because of its role as one of Egypt's industrial strongholds, and in appreciation of the role played by its workers on 18 and 19 January 1977 in resisting the suspicious activities on those two days. [end recording]

AL-AKHBAR GIVES DETAILS ON TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

NC251301Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 April--The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports today that investigations carried out by the Egyptian supreme state security prosecution have revealed that the archengineer of the terrorist organization in Egypt is George Bilinni, a Palestinian, who is affiliated to an international terrorist organization in Zurich.

The paper says that investigations have established that George was the link between Sergio Mantovani, a Swiss, and (Vera Marta Guenther), a German, both of whom had come to Cairo to prepare to start terrorist operations.

The paper notes that among those accused in the case of the terrorist organization discovered last Saturday are three Palestinians adopting extreme principles that emerged in the wake of the peace initiative and are (?supported) by some Arab states known for their leftist inclinations.

The Egyptian paper points out that the three accused Palestinians are students in Cairo. They were assisted by two Jordanians and later joined by the Swiss journalist and the German girl, who works in television.

The paper also points out that the Egyptian public prosecutor has ordered the arrest of three other Palestinians for interrogation in connection with the case.

OPPOSITION PAPER CARRIES HAYKAL INTERVIEW

LD242116Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 19 Apr 78 p 3 LD

[Interview granted by Egyptian Journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal to AL-AHALI--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Some people say that the regime is applying a policy which you were the first to advocate such as, for example, "neutralizing the United States," "limited war," and "no war, no peace." You were the first to coin such terms. What are the reasons, therefore, for the disagreement between you and the regime?

[Answer] It is not true that the policy being implemented is the policy that I called for. Let us take this point by point.

In the early sixties I brought up the question of democracy and the need for participation in decisionmaking. I also brought up the question of administration and the problem of the single political organization. But the questions of neutralizing the United States and of limited war were, in my opinion, the most controversial.

I have said, and still say, that it is necessary to neutralize the United States, and there are many reasons for this. The United States, being one of the two superpowers and a state that exists in the area around us, cannot be ignored or isolated from the Middle East problem. The United States has vital interests in the Middle East.

I was also the first to say that there is an agreement, and not an identity of interests, between the United States and Israel. I also said--and this angered many people--that we cannot confront the United States with a head-on clash. There is no doubt that there is a major contradiction between us and the U.S. plans, but we should deal with this contradiction in the manner of a bullfighter who constantly moves around in the ring so as not to have a head-on clash with the bull's horns.

The United States has its own interests, and at certain moments U.S. and Israeli interests agree. We must exploit the critical gap between agreement and identity of interests in order to check the harmful American role. This is what I said and it is what I still say. Neutralizing the United States, however, absolutely does not mean that we should surrender everything to it.

Although we cannot avoid confronting the United States we must always avoid violence, for sometimes we are overcome by hyperbole and call for confrontation with the United States to the end. This is unsound. The Vietnamese, for example, did not enter into direct confrontation with the United States but with the agent regime in Saigon. Their aim was to oust the U.S. forces.

The reason for my view that we need to neutralize the United States is to lessen the justifications for it to strike at us directly, because the United States has the arrogance of power and conditions in the area would permit it to deal us crushing blows. I believe I was right in saying this.

[Question] What about limited war?

[Answer] I believe that limited war is the only possible war in today's world. What does war mean? There is no endless war. Either you fight a war in order to change the balance of political power or to create a political situation more favorable to yourself.

I believe I was one of those who made a humble contribution to the October war. I firmly believed--and I still believe--that we emerged from the October war with an important strategic achievement that cannot be belittled. It was quite possible to exploit it in order to achieve our objectives. I believe that some did not understand the real value of the October war. They looked at it superficially and did not understand that the most serious period of a limited war is that which follows military battles, as long as such battles stop at a situation that permits us to exploit their results fully.

What is important is that the final outcome of the war was in our favor. This was the starting point at which we should have begun exploiting the results of the limited war.

This was my opinion. I then tried to express it by all means possible, but it led me to many problems. This is unimportant. What is important is that I believe our policy followed a course which, unfortunately, I did not believe would lead us to the achievement of our objectives. I believe Henry Kissinger is largely responsible for the way we were cheated. Nevertheless, we should not spend time expressing sorrow over the past if we are capable of understanding and reassessing the situation.

[Question] Was this the policy that led us to the initiative?

[Answer] I believe the initiative was another kind of action. The initiative was not only the result of this policy but also of the various complicated political situations in the area. Therefore, in view of these conditions it was not surprising that the initiative should come. Rather, it was something that was likely to happen.

[Question] How do you evaluate the peace initiative from the time it was launched up to now?

[Answer] I was one of those who at first did not imagine that it could take place. Many others felt the same. But later I was surprised that it did take place and I have expressed my opinion from the beginning. I was one of those who from the beginning said that for several reasons the initiative would unfortunately lead to nothing. I have made statements on ABC radio, to the BBC and to the French paper LE MONDE and said that I cannot see any use or purpose in what is happening.

Like any political action, the initiative has a statement of account. We did obtain an advantage, but what price did we pay? Was the advantage we obtained worth the price? I am not sure.

It is not a question of satisfying the United States and Europe. I am ready to accept that their satisfaction is important. But what is the price? I am sure that in the United States and Europe they would have been very satisfied, for example, if Saudi Arabia had reduced the price of a single barrel of oil from $12 to $1.

From the beginning I said the initiative would not lead to the results we desire because the conflict is real and not fabricated. Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir did not fabricate it. It is not just a mere trifle. It is a conflict in which Egypt was involved long before that; Egypt fought because of it long before Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. Such a conflict could not be solved with one dramatic act.

We did take the initiative. It was imagined that the initiative itself would be sufficient to convince Israel to withdraw immediately from all the occupied territories and to accept the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Has Israel been convinced? I do not think so. Now once again we have gone back to demanding U.S. pressure, which is the same situation as existed before the initiative.

The strange thing is that they have misunderstood even the motives of the initiative, with the result that they are demanding incredible and illogical things. They even have claims on Egyptian territories. This has been clear from the beginning.

We sometimes pretend astonishment and surprise at statements made by Begin, for example. But Begin is very clear; he is implementing the program on which he based his election campaign; it is his whole history and thought.

Begin says that Israel is not asking others to recognize it but is demanding recognition of its sovereignty over the entire land of Israel. It is demanding of others not merely recognition of its existence, because such existence is undisputable--just as the French people's right to the entire French territory or the Belgian people's right to the entire Belgian territory--but recognition of its sovereignty over the entire land of Israel. How can we forget and ignore all this?

Some people imagine that the United States will bring pressure on Israel, but we do not ask ourselves what the difference is between the U.S. plan and the Begin plan for a solution to the crisis. Some imagine that Begin might fall. Even if this is possible, why don't we ask ourselves what Weizman's plan is or what Peres' plan is for solving the crisis?

[Question] Is it possible to achieve a just settlement under an equal balance of power?

[Answer] The maximum the initiative can achieve is, in my opinion, a separate peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. This is something which Egypt rejects. Nothing more than this can be achieved. Under the present state of disarray of the Arab powers, there is nothing more that we can achieve unless we wish to gloss over the facts through hyperbole which says much but means nothing, something which we definitely do not wish.

[Question] Should we infer from all this that the essence of the differences between you and the regime is that the regime did not reap the fruits of the October war and did not know how to exploit them?

[Answer] Early on I tried to warn of such risks. I did this in a series of articles I wrote after the October war, before I was dismissed from AL-AHRAM. I said--using an agricultural metaphor--that planting goes through three stages: first sowing the seeds, then collecting the crop, and later keeping the crop in the barn so no one can steal it.

EGYPT COMPLAINS TO UN ABOUT ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION

NC260730Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 April--Egypt has submitted a complaint to the United Nations General Assembly against the illegal activities Israel is carrying out by prospecting for oil in occupied Egyptian territories and the Gulf of Suez.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that Egypt has asked that its complaint be included on the agenda for discussion in view of the serious consequences these activities will entail if Israel does not halt the operations it is carrying out in the occupied Egyptian territories and territorial waters.

In its note to the United States [as received] Egypt notes that Israel has prospected for new sources of oil in the occupied Egyptian territories and territorial waters in the Gulf of Suez and north of Al-'Arish and that it has granted foreign companies oil prospecting concessions in these territories and territorial waters.

The paper says that Israel has continued to exploit Egyptian oil in the occupied territories and territorial waters. This contradicts the restrictions stipulated in international agreements, including the Geneva agreements and the Hague agreement, which define the duties and responsibilities of the state that occupies the territories of another state militarily and which prohibit it from exploiting and usurping the resources of the area it occupies.

TU DELEGATION TO ATTEND MOSCOW MAY DAY CELEBRATION

NC251538Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 April--A delegation of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions led by Muhammad as-Samman Ibrahim, member of the federation's board of directors, will leave Cairo for Moscow tomorrow. The Egyptian delegation will take part in the May Day celebrations in the Soviet Union in response to an invitation from the USSR All Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU].

NKOMO ENDS VISIT, HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NC251730Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Joshua Nkomo, leader of the National Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe, held a press conference at noon today at the end of his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He said that he held useful talks with Egyptian officials on developments in Zimbabwe. He praised Egypt's support for the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, saying that Egypt was one of the first countries that supported the struggle of the people there. A Zimbabwe office was opened in Egypt in 1959.

Nkomo denounced the policy of Ian Smith, saying that the people reject the agreement announced by Smith and oppose racial discrimination and apartheid, but they are not against the whites.

INFORMATION MINISTER BEGINS WEEK'S VISIT TO SPAIN

JN241122Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Madrid, 24 April--Iraqi Minister of Information Sa'd Qasim Hammudi and the delegation accompanying him arrived here today coming from Havana on a week-long visit to Spain.

During the visit, Hammudi will hold talks with Spanish officials aimed at developing information cooperation between the two countries in the spheres of radio and television, and at exchanging visits and experts in these spheres. Hammudi presided over the Iraqi delegation to the second meeting of the information coordination bureau of nonalined countries which was held in Havana last Wednesday.

BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL MATTERS

JN241403Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 April--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, met today with Belgian Foreign Trade Minister Hektor de Bruyne to discuss oil relations between Iraq and Belgium. They examined the means to develop these relations with regard to exchanging knowledge and oil and technical personnel. They also considered possible Belgian contributions to the implementation of oil projects in Iraq.

The Belgian minister arrived in Baghdad last Thursday.

Meets With Industry Minister

JN241406Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 April--Muhammad 'Ayish, Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and minerals, met here today with Belgian Foreign Trade Minister de Bruyne.

During the meeting they discussed various aspects of industrial cooperation and the means to develop it in a manner that would strengthen the economic relations between the two countries.

IRAQI DELEGATION LEAVES FOR TRIPOLI MEETING

JN251336Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0858 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 April--An Iraqi delegation left for Tripoli today to attend the 5th periodic meeting of the Arab Popular Conference Permanent General Secretariat that will open there today.

The delegation is led by 'Abd al-Husayn Musallam, director of the Palestine and armed struggle office of the national command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The delegation includes representatives of Iraqi professional and labor unions. In addition to the members of the general secretariat, the meeting will be attended by heads of Arab labor unions and professional associations.

The meeting will discuss the situation in southern Lebanon in the aftermath of the Zionist invasion and the trial of As-Sadat. The meeting will also discuss the position of Arab workers and labor unions, ways to strengthen their unity and reports by the subcommittees set up by the preparatory meeting of the general secretariat held in Tripoli on 12 April. Shabib Lazim, secretary general of the Arab Jurists Federation, and (Sajad) Ghazi, representative of the Arab Journalists Federation, also left to attend this meeting.

AL-DUSTUR SAYS KING HUSAYN AN-NAHAR INTERVIEW

JN260932Y Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Apr 78 p 15 JN

[Excerpts] The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR yesterday published an interview with His Majesty King Husayn. The interview dealt with Arab issues, particularly the Middle East issue, and the international implications surrounding them. The following is the text of the inerview:

Question: If King Husayn had been the one who visited Jerusalem and had received the same negative Israeli response President as-Sadat has so far, what would have happned? What would the king have done if he had been the Egyptian president, who is now being asked to declare the failure of this initiative as a precondition for the restoration of Arab solidarity?

Answer: I have never hestitated to take a step that might be useful to the Arabs or to the aim we seek. But our assessment of the situation has always been realistic and our knowledge of Israel's intentions has always been based on a sound and historical assessment.

At any rate, the current state of affairs dictates that we must overcome both the differences which resulted from President as-Sadat's initiative and those which preceded it. This state of affairs also dictates that we overcome divisions and rifts which can only lead to weakness and encourage Israel to maintain its intransigent stand and continue to belittle the Arabs. We must rebuild Arab solidarity without using complicated means to achieve it and without relinquishing our basic principles.

Question: As a result of the vicious circle of the Middle East crisis, the closest parties have now fallen apart--the Palestinians and the Jordanians; the Egyptians and the Syrians; the Lebanese and the Lebanese [presumably leftists and rightists] and the Lebanese and the Palestinians. Is this the result of the policies of the big powers or the result of international politics as it is said, or is it the product of the seriousness of the cause and the failure of any two Arab sides to achieve joint action, and consequently the failure of all sides?

Answer: The vicious circle of the Middle East crisis is a result of the divergence of the sides and not a cause of it. The Middle East crisis would not have revolved in a vicious circle had the sides succeeded in unifying their stands and mobilizing all their available resources in order to build an Arab force capable of imposing the Arab will and defending the Arab dignity and land.

Question: If we pool all the Arab military capabilities for another October war or its like, how do you think the Arab military situation relates to the Israeli military situation? And what are the most advanced and dangerous arms the two sides possess?

Answer: Israel has tremendous military capabilities and sophisticated ground and air weapons. We do not have any guarantees that Israel does not possess nuclear weapons, which it might use in case of need. The Arab countries have tremendous financial capabilities to build a strong military force to confront Israel, but unfortunately, they have not yet utilized their potential in the service of this direct defensive goal.

Question: Do you think that, like Europe, the United States has succeeded in following a policy which pleases the Arabs and does not anger Israel, and that the Arabs are better off not fighting the United States?

Answer: Neither the United States nor Europe has faced Israel with a firm and clear stand earnestly calling for the implementation of the UN resolutions and acceptance of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem. This situation will only change when the Arabs adopt a unified stand and build their effective, intrinsic power.

Question: The USSR has established good relations with you. They have also established very good relations with the chairman of the PLO. How do you explain that, and how have they reconciled the two positions?

Answer: I do not see any difficulty in that. I also do not see any contradiction in the Soviets being our friends as well as the friends of the PLO leader. Neither of us wants to replace the PLO nor, I believe, does the PLO want to replace us.

Question: Are half of the members of the National Consultative Council Palestinian, and is the council the beginning of something between you and the PLO or are you still following two different courses? Is there any possibility for real reapproachement?

Answer: The National Consultative Council fulfills an internal need to make up for the suspension of electoral rights in the current phase until Parliament is reelected. The council members have been selected on the basis of their competence and devotion to their country as well as their ability to understand the people's feelings and to assist the executive authorities in carrying out their tasks by giving advice, debating legislation, and making recommendations and constructive, objective criticism for the sake of a better government and the public interest. The council members were selected on a geographic basis. There is no distinction between one Jordian citizen and another on the basis of the geographic location he comes from.

Question: You and President al-Asad have followed the 2-year war in Lebanon very closely and with great concern. Undoubtedly, you are also following the repercussions of this war. If you were to suggest a solution to the problems, what would you say? Is there any secret, or secrets, that you know of explaining what has happened and is happening, or are you also being considerate toward the roles of the herces of the conspiracy of silence [as published], or are there just no secrets or anything of the sort?

Answer: I have followed the Lebanese tragedy of the past 2 years with profound sorrow. I do not know if it is easy to find out about the secrets, but I fear that the tendency to place the responsibility for the tragedies that befell us on certain hidden forces might be one way of trying to avoid that responsibility. Even if certain hidden forces were trying to sow discord between the different factions, is it sensible for us to become easy tools in the hands of those forces so they can manipulate us any way they want and cause us this great harm and disintegration?

Question: How are the relations between you and Syria and what are their future? Can you say something concerning the reports about a federation or confederation between Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinian state, or anything to this effect? Is there anything indeed to this?

Answer: The relations between us and Syria are very good. We are trying to develop them further. Our aim has always been to achieve well-studied, practical unity steps, not only with Syria but also in a comprehensive Arab context.

PRESIDENT SARKIS MEETS WITH PREMIER AL-HUSS

NC2513555Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis met with outgoing Prime Minister Salim al-Huss for 1 hour today. Asked whether President Sarkis has designated a new prime minister, Al-Huss denied this and affirmed that his meeting with the president was an ordinary one to review certain public affairs. Al-Huss said: Do not forget that we are a caretaker government.

Asked when he expects a new premier-designate to be appointed, Al-Huss said that this is up to President Sarkis. When told that it was reiterated that he would be asked to form a new cabinet, Al-Huss said that this is also up to President Sarkis.

SPEAKER AL-AS'AD DISCUSSES PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

NC2513731Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Following the parliamentary meeting which ended at 1355 today, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad made a statement in which he outlined his views on the current parliamentary activity and consultations. He said: [begin recording]

At the meeting, which was attended by representatives of various parliamentary blocs, we reviewed the formula approved by the parliamentary committee which was assigned the task of drafting this formula. At this meeting the conferees approved the formula of the resolution which will be presented to the Chamber of Deputies. We will call for a meeting of the Chamber of Deputies next Thursday to discuss this.

[Question] The day after tomorrow?

[Answer] Yes, the day after tomorrow.

I would like to explain one point: In relation to the formula which leaked to the press, we cannot consider it a correct and final formula because we are not responsible for its leakage to the press. It is necessary to explain this. This does not mean, however, that what had leaked out to the press was different in letter and spirit from the correct formula.

We had agreed that the miniparliamentary committee would sponsor a draft resolution which should not be made public before it was approved by the parliamentary body which met today. This is all I have to say today. We hope that unity of ranks will be consolidated in a coming session after having approved this plan which will tackle all aspects of the Lebanese crisis. [end recording]

Speaker al-As'ad has presided over a meeting of a broad parliamentary committee, which approved the formula of the agreement. Speaker al-As'ad called on the Chamber of Deputies to meet the day after tomorrow to debate the formula at a general session. The meeting was attended by 26 deputies of parliamentary blocs and independents. Speaker al-As'ad presented to the deputies the formula of the agreement, which was signed by leaders of parliamentary blocs last Sunday. He called for cooperation and efforts for implementing this positive step.

REACTION TO PARLIAMENTARY AGREEMENT REPORTED

NC2513382 Doha QNA in Arabic 1116 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 25 April--The dispute over the interpretation of the agreement drafted by the Lebanese parliamentary committee as a basis for national detente has intensified in the less than 24 hours since the agreement was announced.

Lebanese political sources expect the dispute to delay the formation of a new Lebanese Government. The designation of a prime minister was scheduled to take place today. Lebanese Nationalist Movement sources have considered the agreement void because those who signed it actually represent only one side and because the agreement called for disarming those who are fighting Israel.

Lebanese front leader Camille Sham'un has stated that the agreement can serve as a program of action for the new government if it is passed by the Chamber of Deputies.

These developments are occurring at a time when the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Kamil al-As'ad, is preparing to convene an enlarged meeting of the leaders of parliamentary blocs and the independent deputies to obtain unanimous approval of the agreement.

The depth of the dispute is apparent in the statements made by the various sides following the unofficial declaration of the provisions of the agreement. Whereas Camille Sham'un has stated that the agreement signifies an abolishment of the Cairo Agreement concluded between the Lebanese authorities and the Palestinian resistance, the Socialist Progressive Party has considered the Chamber of Deputies as no longer truly representing the people.

Lebanese Nationalist Movement sources have stated that the text of the agreement had been drafted by Nasir al-Ma'luf, a deputy of Sham'un's bloc, and that the other deputies had done nothing more than sign it.

In the meantime, the Palestinian resistance has emphasized that the agreements regulating the relationship between it and the Lebanese authorities are contractual agreements that have been transformed into Arab resolutions in Arab summit conferences.

After a meeting that continued until early this morning and included the joint command of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the resistance said that these agreements are not subject to a unilateral abrogation and that raising objections to these agreements at this particular time when Israel is occupying southern Lebanon aims at turning Lebanon backward with the objective of exploding the situation anew.

The resistance has reasserted its eagerness to maintain the unity and legitimate authority of Lebanon, but at the same time it will not permit any side to tamper with the agreements concluded between it and the Lebanese authorities, particularly the Cairo Agreement.

On the other side, officials in the Phalangist and National Liberal parties seize every opportunity to express their support for the agreement reached the day before yesterday.

Secretary general of the National Liberal Party Dory Sham'un has considered the agreement a genuine step toward remedying Lebanon's fateful affairs in a serious manner.

He warned the Palestinians against obstructing the agreement by exerting pressure on Lebanese Islamic personalities. He claimed that the Palestinians and their collaborators backed by the Soviet Union are against a unified, strong Lebanon.

Rightist militias Commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil has announced that instructions were issued to his forces today to refrain from appearing armed in public in order to give support for the agreement, which augurs the return of awareness to the political conscience. He said that the need for the militias will end as soon as the Lebanese Army is formed and the Palestinian armed presence in all the Lebanese territories is ended.

NATIONAL STRUGGLE FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT

NC251340Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The national struggle front has held a meeting in the presence of Walid Junblatt. The front later released the following statement:

1. Deputy Bahij Taqiy ad-Din took part in the work of the 13-man committee in his capacity as representative of the national struggle front.

2. The proposed formula is a draft resolution, which will be presented to the Chamber of Deputies for final approval.

The national struggle front will then define its stand regarding the said draft resolution. All members of the front will abide by the front's attitude toward the proposed formula.

After the meeting Walid Junblatt made the following statement:

To avoid any confusion or distortion, we met with members of the national struggle front in order to adopt a unified stand. We heard a statement by representative of the front Shaykh Bahij Taqiy ad-Din at the meeting of the 13-man committee. The front is currently studying the proposed formula to be submitted before the Chamber of Deputies. I am confident that the struggle front will adopt a unified decision on the subject. There is no need to stress the close and firm relations and friendship linking us with Shaykh Bahij Taqiy ad-Din, since we are following one political course.

Outgoing Prime Minister al-Huss is due to meet with Walid Junblatt at 1700 today.

NATIONALISTS WARN AGAINST FRENCH PROVOCATIONS

JN252015Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has warned the French UNIFIL contingent against the behavior and provocations of its elements against the citizens in Tyre. Representatives of the Nationalist Movement have informed those in charge of these forces of the need to put an end to the behavior of their elements in Tyre. They also called for a cessation of the patrols they are deploying in the city, emphasizing that the mission of these forces is to take over the positions vacated by the aggressive Zionist forces. The Nationalist Movement council in Tyre also protested against the military maneuvers carried out by the French forces. It considered this an exhibitionist phenomenon to provoke the joint forces in the area.

SYRIAN FORCES CONTINUE CAMPAIGN IN AL-BIQA'

JN251220Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 April--For the second day in a row, the Arab deterrent forces and the intelligence services of the Syrian regime are continuing their campaign of arrests in the western Al-Biqa' area.

Lebanese Nationalist Movement sources stated today that those arrested are being charged with affiliating with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. Members of the Syrian intelligence services are also raiding the houses of members of the movement in various towns in the Al-Biqa' area.

The Lebanese Nationalist Movement sources further stated that patriotic strugglers fighting against the Zionist forces of occupation are bypassing Syrian roadblocks to avoid being apprehended.

SOLDIERS DISCHARGED FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS

NC251858Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri today decided to discharge the following soldiers from the army effective 22 April for disciplinary reasons: Sergeants First Class Muhsin Khushaykh and Yunis as-Sayyid; Sergeants Jamil Hamdan, Muhammad Sarhan, Muhsin an-Najjar, Mi'dad Rahhal and Sami Madi; Corporals Niqula Sam'an and As-'ad Haddad; Administrative Corporal Ma'ruf Khalifah; Corporal Muhammad ad-Dibs and Privates George 'Atiyah, Akram Sha'ban, 'Id Matar, 'Aql Jirjis, Zaki Jirjis, Ohannes Makujyan, Burhan Wahbi, Alfred Suwayda and Niqula as-Ad.

The persons are forbidden from entering or approaching military barracks and establishments.

INA: RIGHTISTS CONFESS TO BEIRUT BOMBINGS

JN221152Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1022 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 April--Three elements of the An-Numur [Tigers] gangs belonging to the rightist National Liberal Party have confessed to hurling explosives the day before yesterday at the American University in the western sector and the Al-Kaslik Club in Mar Marun Street.

After being apprehended by the Internal Security Forces, the three confessed that there are certain An-Numur cells whose job is to hurl explosives in order to disrupt security and create tension in Lebanon.

INA REPORTS ON CLASHES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN251312Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0917 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 April--A patriotic group of fighters, operating behind enemy lines, laid an ambush last evening on the Tibnin-Bi'r-As-Sanasil road and engaged an enemy patrol with machineguns. The Zionists sent in reinforcements supported by helicopters to assist the patrol.

Travelers from the area of the fighting who witnessed the clashes stated that Zionist ambulances rushed to the scene to carry away the wounded--whose number was not known --while Zionist forces set up roadblocks in the area and began combing the nearby woods in search of the fighters.

The INA correspondent in the south reported that tension has prevailed in the occupied southern Lebanese areas for the past 2 days, despite an increase in UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] patrols to help maintain calm. The INA correspondent further stated that a number of areas have been the scene of limited clashes with Zionist enemy forces, who were forced to send reinforcements of armor to several of the main axes. The INA correspondent also stated that Col (Salvan), commander of the French contingent within the UNIFIL in Tyre, yesterday met with officials of the joint forces and discussed with them the situation in southern Lebanon.

ISRAELIS REPORTEDLY KIDNAP, KILL TWO LEBANESE

JN222126Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 April--The Zionist forces today killed two persons from the southern Lebanese village of 'Ayn Ba'al who had been kidnaped by these forces some days back. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon says the bodies of the two citizens were found this morning outside the village.

300 REPORTEDLY KILLED IN 'AYN AR-RUMMANAH

NC221420Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1258 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 22 April--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today reports that 300 isolationists were killed last week in the attack against the 'Ayn Ar-Rummanah area in Beirut by Syrian contingents of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon. It adds that nine Israelis were discovered deployed with the Phalangist alliance forces.

The paper says that the Syrian command has informed Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis that it absolutely rejects the idea of withdrawing from Lebanon. The command affirms that the Al-Biqa' area is the first defense line of Syria and is an important as Syrian territory. Hence Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon in these circumstances would be tantamount to committing suicide.

KUWAITI PAPER: THREE SOVIET NUCLEAR EXPERTS KILLED

NC250927Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 25 April--Three Soviet experts, specialists in nuclear equipment, were killed as they were helping Syrian military experts to dismantle an Israeli nuclear listening device which had been planted on the Damascus-Dar'a road and linked to a Syrian-Jordanian communications network. The Syrian authorities recently announced the discovery of the device.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS publishes the report today, quoting reliable and informed sources. The paper says that the death of the Soviet experts has led the Kremlin to put the blame on Syria because the Kremlin had asked the Syrian presidency to permit the device to be taken to Moscow and have it dismantled in Soviet laboratories in the presence of Syrian experts, but President Hafiz al-Asad refused. He only accepted participation by the Soviet experts in dismantling the device in Syria as soon as possible.

The paper points out that the Israeli device was discovered by accident when a Syrian shepherd asked help from a military post in freeing some of his livestock from (?barbed wire) in which they were caught. As the men from the military post were doing this, they discovered the strange device and informed the military general command.

ATH-THAWRAH: SYRIA PREPARED TO FIGHT ALONE

JN251502Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1322 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 25 April--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH said today that the links in the joint imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat plot lead down a path which runs contrary to the Syrian region and its pan-Arab stand of struggle. The paper said that these links can be controlled and overcome if the Arab nation supports Syria and backs the pan-Arab front of confrontation and steadfastness.

The paper pointed out that if this support is not forthcoming, which seems probable and is being taken into account, Syria will wage the battle of liberation alone, because its political leadership cannot accept a reconciliation with the enemies of the Arab cause and will not hesitate to do everything which might contribute to the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

LONDON AD-DUSTUR REPORTS SYRIAN REACTION TO COUP PLOT

JN241809Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] London, 24 April--The magazine AD-DUSTUR has disclosed that a unit of the Syrian defense and intelligence squads have launched organized storming operations in certain quarters of the city of Aleppo in northern Syria and nearby villages.

In its issue published today, the magazine says that helicopters participated in these operations in search of arms. The magazine described the Syrian capital of Damascus as a city living in a state of curfew after 2200 because of assassination incidents particularly in the university area.

The magazine cites reports which emphasize that the intelligence organs of the air force under Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli uncovered a plan to overthrow Hafiz al-Asad while he and hiw brother Rif'at were visiting their birthplace, Qirdahah, to participate in the funeral of their relative, Dr Ibrahim Na'amah, who was assassinated recently in front of his clinic in Damascus.

ALGERIA

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE FOREIGN MINISTER APRIVES

LD222208Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Leonel Mario d'Alva, Sao Tome and Principe foreign minister and special envoy of President da Costa, arrived at Dar al-Baida airport in Algiers this evening. He is carrying a message to President Houari Boumediene, president of Algeria and chairman of the Council of the Revolution. He was welcomed by Hadj Ya'la, minister of commerce, and by senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

In a declaration at the airport, the head of the diplomatic department of Sao Tome and Principe said that relations between Algeria and his country are excellent. Bilateral relations were good even before independence, he said.

He stressed that the two countries were fighting jointly for just causes. D'Alva expressed satisfaction at being in Algeria and said that the visit came in the framework of the strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries and of the anti-imperialist front.

Received by Boumediene

LD242004Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Text] President Houari Boumediene today received the foreign minister of Sao Tome and Principe, Leonel d'Alva, who conveyed to President Boumediene a message from President Pinto da Costa.

LIBYA

SUDANESE OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI FOR TALKS

LD241640Y Tripoli JANA in English 1414 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 24, JANA--Mr 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, the 1st deputy to the Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, arrived in Tripoli last night. An official reception, headed by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, was held for the guest.

Mr Ibrahim made a statement to the JANA news agency in which he said: "I am on a visit to Tripoli to meet my brothers in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in order to implement the first practical step to achieve national reconciliation in Chad. This step was decided upon at the meetings that were held in Sabha and Benghazi.

The Sudanese 1st deputy president expressed his appreciation for the stand taken by the Jamahiriyah under the leadership of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi towards the accomplishment of the aims of the African Continen for security and tranquillity.

He added: "I bring with me the greetings of President Numayri and the Sudanese people to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan Arab people. He also said that he will be discussing with the officials of the Jamahiriyah the current Arab situation and the work needed to confront the challenge facing the Arab nation.

Departs 25 April

LD251606Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] Yesterday Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Sudanese First Vice President 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim in the framework of consultations concerning national reconciliation in Chad. It is noteworthy that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has sent telegrams both to the Chadian National Liberation Front and President Malloum on the need to exert efforts to halt the deteriorating situation, carry out what had been agreed upon in Benghazi and prepare for the Tripoli reconciliation meeting to be held at the beginning of next June.

The Sudanese first vice president left Tripoli this morning.

INFORMATION SECRETARY RETURNS FROM ALGERIA

LD201912Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] This afternoon the information secretary returned from Algeria where he attended the conference of information ministers of the confrontation states. Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, accompanied him.

MAURITANIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON DADDAH'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

For the Lagos International Service report on a communique issued on 23 April on the visit to Nigeria by President Moktar Ould Daddah, see the West Africa section of the 25 April Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

MINISTER RETURNS FROM FEZ DEFENSE COMMITTEE SESSION

LD211804Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 21 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Nouakchott--The Mauritanian minister of state for foreign affairs, Hamdi Ould Mouknass, returned to Nouakchott on Wednesday evening from Fez, where he took part in the third session of the Moroccan-Mauritanian high defense committee. Ould Mouknass stated that the Fez meeting had allowed a thorough assessment of military cooperation between the two countries to be made. "This assessment is broadly positive, and we decided to continue and to deepen coordination at the level of all the bodies set up through the mutual defense agreement, thanks to which we have been able to confront the Algerian aggression." "The defense system, he added, is adapting and improving every day on the way to becoming more effective." [Quotation marks as received]

MOROCCO

OFFICIAL DENIES CONTACT MADE WITH ALGERIA'S FLN

LD251820Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 25 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Rabat--The report published by the paper AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, edited in Paris, that there have been contacts between deputies of the assembly of independents and members of Algeria's FLN, was denied in Rabat on Monday.

A source close to the presidency of the Moroccan Parliament, contacted by MAP, assessed this information as being "devoid of all foundation."

For his part, Abdelhamid El Kasmi, spokesman for the parliamentary group of independents, has neither confirmed nor denied this information. AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, whose Rabat correspondent has quoted diplomatic sources, believes that contacts between the independents and the FLN have taken place in view of preparations for a summit meeting for the conclusion of a Moroccan-Algerian agreement on the Sahara issue.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI CONTINUES TO PROMOTE ARAB SOLIDARITY

NC251315Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At the beginning of next week, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will embark on a tour of Cairo, Damascus and a number of other Arab capitals as part of his moves as chairman of the Arab solidarity committee. President Numayri will hold consultations with Arab kings and leaders on the convocation of an expanded Arab summit conference aimed at achieving Arab solidarity.

TWO SUDANESE REPORTEDLY KILLED BY ETHIOPIANS

JN251645Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 25 April--Two Sudanese were killed yesterday when a number of Ethiopians opened fire on the truck in which they were travelling in the area between the Sudanese village of (Taya) and the Ethiopian town of (Dauca) on the border between the two countries. The Sudanese armed forces and police have begun a search in the area for the Ethiopians. The perpetrators have not yet been apprehended.

LARGEST OILFIELD IN EAST AFRICA REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED

NC260918Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 April--Quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Kuwait, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-WATHBAH says today that the biggest oilfield in East Africa was discovered a very short time ago in Sudanese territory. Still quoting the same sources, the paper says that the oilfield holds a huge oil lake that will turn Sudan into one of the principal oil-producing states.

The paper points out that the U.S. Chevron Company, which had carried out the prospecting operations, has asked the Sudanese Government to defer the announcement of the discovery for some time until the company arranges its financial affairs so that it may actually participate with the Sudanese Government in exploiting the oilfield.

BRIEFS

TUNISIAN IMPORTS, EXPORTS--Tunis--In an article on Tunisia's development, the newspaper AL 'AMAL writes that Tunisian exports for 1977 reached a value 390.07 billion dinars, while the value of its imports reached 757 billion dinars for the same period. Producer goods to the value of 226.51 billion dinars were imported. This corresponds to 30 percent of all imports. Semifinished goods worth 181.23 billion dinars were imported and consumer goods worth 134.7 billion dinars were also imported. The increase of Tunisian exports of consumer goods was 67 percent. The growth rate for exports of semifinished products was 22.6 percent and of manufactured goods 62.9 percent, while the growth rate of imports of manufactured goods was 15.2 percent. [Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 17 Apr 78 LD]

COMMENTARY ON RABIN'S VIEW OF CARTER'S MIDEAST POLICY

TA221419Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Apr 78 p 18 TA

[Shelomo Shapir commentary]

[Excerpts] Over the last year a change has occurred not only in Israel's approach but also in that of the United States. In contrast to the policies of Presidents Nixon and Ford, executed by Dr Henry Kissinger, viewing Egypt and Israel as the cornerstones in the plans for a Middle East settlement, President Carter turned to a comprehensive solution on all fronts. Naturally, Rabin says, this new policy necessitated an increased U.S. courting of the Soviets, the Syrians and the PLO. In the United States as well many now admit that As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was largely aimed at curbing this trend of the Carter administration and obliging it to put Egypt back at the head of the list.

Does Rabin share the views expressed here a few weeks ago in a symposium held by the Shilo'ah Institute that one of the lines characterizing Carter's policy--as contrasted to that of his predecessors, the Republicans--is transferring the center of gravity from Egypt to Saudi Arabia which is rich with oil and petrodollars?

Rabin does not share these generalizations. Saudi Arabia is indeed a financially important element but its political weight should not be exaggerated. It is greatly to be doubted whether it actually sees itself as a cornerstone in U.S. policy. Moreover, it continues to support a pan-Arab consensus that includes Egypt and Syria, at least.

On the other hand, Carter's support of As-Sadat's initiative--a decision that was preceded by quite a few hesitations--should not be interpreted as a return to previous policy. On the contrary: The Carter administration today also hopes to push both Egypt and Israel into being more specific on the question of the declaration of principles in order to return to the strategy of the comprehensive settlement on all fronts which has guided the Democratic administration since it assumed power in January 1977.

Here, Rabin says, he has a surprise for his friends in the Alinement as well. All signs indicate that the Carter administration prefers Begin's peace plan to the Alinement's alternative as the starting point for the political process. Why? The Alinement's plan is based on defensible borders that are certainly different from the lines of 4 June 1967, while Begin's plan does not change these lines.

Regarding the Sinai, it is conditional on the continued presence of the Israeli settlements, including a defense force, a condition which is easy for the U.S. administration to undermine while gaining the sympathy of U.S. public opinion. No part of the U.S. public is ready today to be convinced of the need for extra-territorial settlements which are to many a synonym for colonialism. Paradoxically, concerning the West Bank, and even with regard to the Palestinians, Begin's concept is better for the present U.S. administration. Unlike the Alinement's intention to divide the mandatory Eretz Yisra'el of 1918, including the West Bank, into two states, Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian state, Begin talks (however he defines it) of the existence of two peoples in the area of Eretz Yisra'el West of the Jordan. However, President Carter is not prepared to put up with the 5-year home-rule plan combined with the demand that a public referendum be held afterward, a referendum in which the residents will decide between a continuation of the status quo or a link with either Israel or Jordan. The area of the home rule includes all the territories beyond the green line except for East Jerusalem, and it is clear what the Arabs in these territories will decide in this public referendum--which Rabin rejects categorically.

Israel, in Rabin's opinion, will face a fateful test in the United States in view of the administration's efforts to have the triangular arms deal with Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt approved. This is the first time that the Washington administration has deviated from the desire for a political balance and wants to tie its contribution to Israel's security with a simultaneous arming of the pro-Western Arab countries. This may have far-reaching implications for Israel's status in the United States. Rabin does not accept the argument of various Jewish leaders that Israel's friends in the Congress must not be enlisted in the struggle against the President on this matter, because a "wounded" President may take revenge on Israel. It is worthwhile, in this connection, to also take advantage of the awakening among the U.S. public following the series about the Jewish holocaust that was shown on television recently and showed many Americans the bitter fate of the Jewish people a mere 35 years ago. If it is possible to prevent the approval of the deal no effort must be spared on this matter. This is a task of the first magnitude. If there is no other choice left a delay of a year or half a year in the Israeli arms deal is even to be preferred, if it is possible thereby to delay the deals with Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

DAYAN MAKES STATEMENT, LEAVES FOR U.S.

TA250532Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan left for the United States this morning for talks with the U.S. administration. At Lod airport Mr Dayan said he is not going with anything to sell. His aim is to pinpoint the disputed issues with the United States.

The foreign minister said it is a mistake to think that the main issue of the talks is the formulation of Resolution 242 or the declaration of principles. The major issue is the practical side of things. We want to know, in the wake of Alfred Atherton's talks in Cairo, what the Egyptian position is and what it proposes as a basis for a settlement.

Dayan also said that he has heard rumors that the United States thinks the administrative autonomy proposed by Israel for Judaea and Samaria is the most reasonable plan on which to base the negotiations. Dayan said it is more acceptable than plans of compromise and partition, although it may be necessary to make certain changes. The foreign minister also said while he is in Washington he will raise the subject of a package deal of arms supply to the Middle East. Israel objects to the supply of planes to the Arab countries and also to the method of package deals involving Israel. If, as a result of our expressing our opinion, the U.S. administration decides to punish us, we will have to absorb the punishment but we will not change our opinion.

Our political correspondent Shalom Qital reports that the foreign minister was accompanied by the Foreign Ministry legal adviser and the head of the foreign minister's office. In addition, the prime minister's adviser for press affairs, Dan Patir, also flew to the United States today to prepare for the prime minister's visit that starts next week.

Further on Statement

TA250625Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Apr 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Excerpts] This morning Dayan departed for the United States. He will confer there with the U.S. secretary of state in an attempt to promote the political negotiations in the Middle East.

Prior to Mr Dayan's departure, a press conference was held at Ben-Gurion Airport. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital reports from the airport. [begin recording]

The subjects for Dayan's talks in Washington will be the same ones dealt with at the last meeting the prime minister had in the United States. Israel's proposals for a declaration of principles. Israel's proposals for a peace settlement have not changed, and Mr Dayan assumes that the U.S. position will be the same as was presented at the conclusion of the talks in Washington last month. There are no new formulas, at the moment, the foreign minister says.

[Dayan] The main issue is not the papers, nor the formulas, but what will really happen. We have made proposals. If Mr Atherton, who is coming from Egypt now, can explain what the Egyptians propose, if they have counterproposals, then the question of formulating the declaration of principles, of determining the verbal framework, will be a minor question. After a rather long period of contacts and negotiations, the major and practical question is what Egypt is proposing as a basis for settlement, not as a basis for a paper.

[Qital] Mr Dayan said we will try to arrive at a formula agreed on by all parties. I am going to Washington in order to do the utmost, from Israel's point of view, to reach a settlement and to focus on the points of disagreement. It is not difficult to pinpoint the disagreements.

[Dayan] Israeli representatives used to travel--I think it was Mrs Meir who coined the phrase--with a shopping basket to Washington. Well then, I am not traveling with anything to sell to Washington.

[Qital] About the U.S. position, Mr Dayan says: Rumors, parts of rumors have reached me--it happens occasionally that I, the foreign minister, hear rumors and not reports--according to which the Americans are looking for a formula that will be acceptable also to the Arabs. This formula is very close to Israel's proposal regarding the administrative autonomy in Judaea and Samaria. The Israeli proposal for administrative autonomy, Dayan says, is more acceptable to the Americans than any other Israeli plan, be it a plan of territorial compromise or a partition in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. According to the U.S. position, this Israeli proposal of autonomy may serve as a basis for a settlement--maybe with changes, maybe as a transitional plan--but surely a basis. [end recording]

Dayan Misquoted in U.S. Press

TA260615Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has been widely quoted in the American news media as saying that Israel would prefer to forego the warplanes it wants to buy from the United States rather than have them supplied to Saudi Arabia as well. However, what Foreign Minister Dayan really said on leaving Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday is that Israel had the right and the duty to oppose the sale of advanced warplanes to Saudi Arabia as the deal would endanger Israel's security. If Israel is to be punished for adopting this position then it will just have to take the punishment.

MINISTER EHRLICH DISCUSSES YAMIT DISTRICT SETTLEMENTS

TA241822Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Apr 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The government of Israel cannot determine a final position regarding the Yamit district settlements now, since it has declared that everything is open for negotiations.

This was said today by Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich to the Yamit district settlers who asked what the government's position is concerning the future of the site. Still, the finance minister told the settlers, there is no decision to freeze the settlement, and the slowing down that has been taking place in the development of the area is not connected to the negotiations for peace, which he termed an experimental peace. Our correspondent in the south, Shemu'el Tal, talked with the finance minister today. [begin recording]

[Question] In the past few months we have heard all kinds of talk about a secure peace, and peace now, and now--an experimental peace. What is an experimental peace?

[Answer] Every first is an experiment. We shall put it to the test in reality, and we shall see how it stands up. I believe we will reach a peace settlement with Egypt. One should see how this peace settlement is carried out; it is an experiment--for the first period, 1 year, 2, 3. When something operates well, it ceases to be an experiment and becomes something permanent. This is the intention.

[Question] So that this is a matter of semantics.

[Answer] Only semantics, nothing more.

[Question] The settlements in this area are also experimental?

[Answer] I understand that there is an experimental station here to experiment on things, to examine certain equipment, but a settlement is not experimental.

[Question] We have heard from many sources here, both from among the settlements and from governmental officials, that there has been a certain freeze here in construction plans, in development plans. The settlements face credit difficulties, people who supply, or order--let us say--flowers, or vegetables, are asked: Would it be worth while to order next year, or in the next 2 years? Do you think there is ground for this anxiety?

[Answer] I do not know of it. I have now heard about it. I would not hesitate to place an order, and I do not think that there is a freeze. Perhaps, to a certain degree, there is a slowing down; in the credit, there is a limiting of credit, but that applies to the entire country, not just to these settlements.

[Question] The reference is specifically to these settlements, when people are afraid to honor checks from Yamit, for example.

[Answer] I do not think there is any ground for such fears.

[Question] What is the direction your office will take regarding the development of this area?

[Answer] In accordance with the Israeli government's policy and decisions.

[Question] Could you, perhaps, elaborate a little?

[Answer] I cannot yet say anything because the government has not finally decided, so it is still too early.

[Question] I know, for example, that at least one of the settlements has not been allotted its share of the budget this year.

[Answer] No doubt for lack of money.

[Question] Without any connection to policy?

[Answer] For me, what determines things is the money. [end recording]

BEGIN REASSURES YAMIT SETTLERS ON TALKS WITH EGYPT

TA251735Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has promised that Israel would not sign any agreement with Egypt that would worsen the situation of the Qidmat Sinai settlements. Israel would only sign an agreement that would insure their continued existence in their present state. The prime minister said these things to members of the Qidmat Sinai Settlers' Committee.

The settlers expressed their objection to the plan Mr Begin presented to President as-Sadat concerning the future of their settlement and wished to know if any change in the plan had occurred. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned from participants at the meeting that Mr Begin told them that if the government's plan regarding the Sinai, Judaea and Samaria is not accepted, there is a possibility that we would take it back and offer border alterations in the Sinai. According to the members of the settlers' committee, the prime minister told them that the Yamit district is of the utmost security importance as a buffer zone between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The members of the committee protested the decision to freeze further settlement activity in the area and remarked that freeze does not apply to the bedouins, who continue their wild building spree around the settlements.

GUSH EMUNIM PLANS TO ESTABLISH NEW SETTLEMENTS

NC231443Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1135 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Gush Emunim has prepared a detailed pilot project for the establishment of new settlements in Judaea and Samaria and has presented it to the ministers concerned. The plan, prepared with the aid of Professor 'Ezra Zohar and Architect Hanna Tabenkin, calls for developing the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria to allow for 1 million inhabitants in the course of 25 years. In a press conference held to commemorate the first year of the settlement of Qarnei Shomron, the leaders of Gush Emunim said that, to date, they have established 16 settlements comprising more than 2,000 inhabitants. Our reporter Sara Avivi attended the press conference. [begin recording]

Gush Emunim is still expecting big things from the government, says Hanan Porat, one of the leaders. We are neither criticizing nor expressing opposing opinions. We are expressing our expectations and demands.

[Porat] We believe that what has been achieved by Gush Emunim with the government's assistance decision and deeds, constitutes a small primary step. This step will not be consolidated if it is not carried further and if it does not gain momentum on a noteworthy national scale. The key factor for us is that, if we do not move on from the stage of temporary settlements--some of which are still under semimilitary auspices--to the stage of permanent, large and fully developed settlements in which it will be possible to set up satisfactory houses, industries and road, electricity and water systems; normal requirements for the developments of a region--the achievements to date will not be those of a passing period. They have already established a fact but if they remain small and insignificant, those who feel that they have done something will be happy and contented. [as heard]

[Avivi] The testing point, therefore, will be in turning the temporary settlements into permanent settlements. Such a step requires a government decision. In addition to this test, the Gush Emunim members are demanding that the government study and approve a detailed plan which they have submitted for the development of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria. One of the problems arising from the enlargement of the Jewish settlements in the region is the problem of land ownership. Hanan Porat explained that their plan is to propose a legal way to determine Jewish ownership of large areas of Judaea and Samaria.

[Porat] I am referring to nonarable, uncultivated lands which are not registered in the land registration office as belonging to Arabs. These lands constitute around 50 percent of Judaea and Samaria, and if state ownership is imposed on them--which exists de facto in these areas as it did during Jordanian rule--then there is a possibility of developing industrial settlements in particular on a wide scale, and there will be no difficulties as no land will be usurped from any Arab.

QARNE SHOMRON SETTLEMENT INAUGURATED

TA251900Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The settlement of Qarne Shomron was officially inaugurated today. It was settled at the beginning of the year. During today's ceremony a Torah scroll was brought to the local synagogue.

Our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum reports that according to talks with the settlers it appears that the government intends to set up a three-settlement cluster in the area. Their main source of livelihood will be from industry.

BEGIN HARD LINE ON W. BANK SETTLEMENTS CRITICIZED

TA260716Y Jerusalem POST in English 26 Apr 78 p 10 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] It is sheer coincidence that the prime minister's presence at the 10th anniversary celebrations of Qiryat 'Arba in Judaea occurred simultaneously with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's departure for some urgent fence mending.

It is more difficult to attribute the renewal of the clamour around the issue of settlement of the West Bank at the same time as the same sort of coincidence. Shilo is in the air again, and Gush Emunim has gone on record asserting, with its usual exaggeration, that it has already managed to set up 16 settlements on the West Bank. A suitable denial has come from the army, which administers the West Bank, but not from the prime minister's office.

This could all be dismissed under the heading of the usual confusion and infighting which has characterized Israel Governments for the past decade and more, were it not for the damage caused by these contradictory signals to Israel's political position, especially in the U.S.

Let it be said immediately that Mr Begin's sporadic forays of support for Gush Emunim's chimera of an eventual one million Jewish settlers on the West Bank are not the main cause of the stalemate in the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. President as-Sadat's adamant insistence on sticking to every jot and tittle of his original demands--total withdrawal to the June 1967 borders, including from East Jerusalem, and the right of self-determination for the Palestinians--including the near certainty that this would lead to a PLO-controlled state--is much more at the heart of that stalemate.

But the world would never know it, not even Israel's friends in the West. This failure to communicate the real cause of the deadlock with Egypt is not due primarily to media bias against Israel. The real reason is the preoccupation of the Begin government with the illusion--not even the substance--of settlement on the West Bank.

There has hardly been a delegation from the U.S. in recent months--including the most intrepid of Israel's friends--which has not sought to educate Mr Begin and his senior ministers in the realities of Israel's declining image in the U.S. All of them place the blame on the government's clumsy fumbling on the issue of Security Council Resolution 242 and the matter of the settlements.

Mr Dayan has gone through some verbal contortions in trying to undo the damage of Mr Begin's stand on 242. This is part of what he will be attempting to do in Washington in preparation for Mr Begin's visit there next week. To what avail will all his labours be if they are put to nought in the court of American political opinion by renewed emphasis on the settlement issue?

It is often forgotten by Mr Begin's political opponents that he has become prime minister, and his party the leading government party, as a result of Labour's telling defeat in last May's elections. It is to Mr Begin's credit that he has never sought to hide his political and ideological opinions.

It is, however, not true that Mr Begin has received a mandate from the electorate to implement his own ideological aims regardless of the political cost that would entail. The primary mandate any prime minister is given is to govern in wisdom, appreciating correctly the balance of risk and opportunity.

By ignoring, or not understanding correctly, the impact in the U.S. and elsewhere of some of his public acts and positions--especially on settlement and Resolution 242--Mr Begin has put Israel, rather than an inflexible As-Sadat, on the political defensive.

SEVERAL MINISTERS ABSENT FROM QIRYAT ARBA' CEREMONY

TA251125Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Apr 78 p 8 TA

[Text] Yesterday, half of the Israeli Cabinet was present at a rally in Qiryat Arba' and half was absent.

Despite the fact that all Israeli Cabinet ministers received invitations from the Qiryat Arba' administration to participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations, Ministers Weizman, Dayan, Ehrlich, Yadin, 'Amit, Burg, Pat, Tamir and David Levi were absent from the official ceremony. On the other hand, Prime Minister Begin and Ministers Landau, Sharon, Nissim, Horowitz, Shostak, Moda'i, Abu-Hazera, Hammer and Yisra'el Katz, whose presence surpised many, were there.

One could think--and, in fact, this would not be far from the truth--that the settlement issue cuts right through the middle of the Israeli Cabinet.

EDUCATORS SIGN MANIFESTO URGING MORE FLEXIBILITY

TA232055Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Three hundred fifty senior lecturers from all institutions of higher education in the country signed a manifesto in which they join the call of the Peace Now people not to miss the opportunity for peace. The manifesto will be published the day after tomorrow.

The signatories of the manifesto say that they deem it necessary to warn that the government's policy does not, in their opinion, lead to compromise and peace, but to a loss of friends and for increased isolation for Israel in the international arena.

Among those signing this manifesto are: the president of the Israeli Academy for Sciences, Prof Arye (Devoretzki), Prof Gershom Shalom, Prof Shemu'el (Eizenstat), Professor Patenkin, Prof Ya'aqov Katz, who was the rector of the Hebrew University, Prof Shim'on Shamir and Prof Yehoshafat Harkabi.

AMERICAN JEWISH FIGURES SUPPORT PEACE NOW MOVEMENT

NC220740Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] A group of 37 U.S. Jewish figures have sent a message of support to the Peace Now Movement in Israel. Those who signed the letter include 10 rabbis, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature Saul Bellow, and winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics Kenneth Arrow. They sent their letter to Bezal'el Reshef, a law student in Jerusalem.

In their letter they say that they were moved by the movement's call for the softening of Israel's stance in the negotiations with Egypt. We, too, believe that stable peace is more important than more land for Israel, they say. They stress that the U.S. administration's policy in the Middle East is dangerous. But, in their opinion, the Israeli Government's position helps the U.S. administration mobilize support for this policy.

RUSSIAN CHURCH DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

TA251400Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Apr 78 TA

[Text] A high-ranking delegation of the Russian church headed by Archbishop Erasmus Nicolay from the city of Gorki arrived in Israel today on the occasion of the Easter holiday. The delegation consists of 11 members, most of them young priests, and including Bishop (Isidor Kreshenko) from Arkhangelsk.

Religous Affairs Ministry Director General Yisra'el Lippel received the Soviet delegation, noting that the guests are maintaining a long tradition of pilgrimage which flourished in the last century. He told the delegation members that they will feel at home here with the many Russian-speaking people. He added that they are free to move anywhere they like in Israel. The Russian church delegation will stay here for 10 days.

GERMAN NEWSMEN WITH SCHEEL PUT QUESTIONS TO SHAH

LD2418422 Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] The shah today received the German correspondents who accompanied His Excellency Walter Scheel, the FRG president, on his visit to Iran and answered their questions.

At the outset, the shah welcomed the correspondents and expressed regret that the correspondents' visit to Iran was brief and that they were unable to fully acquaint themselves with Iran's past and current achievements. In answer to a correspondent's question on his views on Iran's relations with the FRG, the shah said: We have had very good relations with your country for many decades. Our two countries' ties go back to ancient times. I believe that as a result of our meeting and exchange of views with His Excellency Walter Scheel this morning fresh horizons have emerged for cooperation between us. Although this cooperation is already extensive, as witnessed by the fact that our trade currently amounts to nearly DM5 billion annually, still there are many fresh opportunities for further developing our cooperation in the fields of finance and trade, as well as other areas such as science, technology, university contacts and other aspects of cooperation open to the two countries.

A correspondent, referring to the incidents that occurred after the Shah's visit to Federal Germany in 1967 [student demonstrations against the shah], asked the shah's view on the effect of these incidents on Iranian-FRG relations. The shah said: We have never let such incidents influence our relations with your country, otherwise our trade turnover with you would not be as high as DM5 billion a year. The interests of nations and countries are always given paramount importance and I can say that the doors for further cooperation between the two countries are now much more open than ever before.

A correspondent asked: Is Iran likely to make further capital investments in foreign firms? The shah said: If our participation is welcome, then the answer is affirmative. We shall never try to impose ourselves upon anyone. I believe that all the firms in which we have a stake so far have welcomed our participation. We shall take advantage of every opportunity for investment in your country, or for joint investment in third countries in partnership with you.

A correspondent said: The shah has just spoken about fresh areas of cooperation between the two countries. Could one of the areas of cooperation be in the armament industry in Iran? The shah said: We already have extensive cooperation with a number of German industries in the armament industries; this cooperation will certainly continue in the future.

A correspondent asked the shah about the thrust of Iran's foreign policy in this region of the world. The shah said: First of all, we are pursuing a policy we call our independent national policy. Then there is our alliance with the West. Next comes the responsibility we feel for the stability of the region. What does the stability of the region mean? The fact is that nearly 30 million barrels of oil a day are passing through the Straits of Hormuz, on one side of which we are located. Let us imagine for a moment what would happen if the straits were closed or else a giant tanker were sunk there. The point, however, is not just the need to control the straits. What would happen to the passage of tankers if we did not have stability in the Indian Ocean on one side and the Red Sea on the other. Let us note that larger tankers go around the cape while smaller tankers go through the Suez Canal. We know that 70 percent of Europe's energy requirements and 90 percent of Japan's are supplied from our region.

I believe that currently some 51 percent of U.S. oil imports are also supplied from our region. So when we talk about the stability of this region and keeping the Straits of Hormuz open and the security of the Indian Ocean, we are saying that the industrial activity of Europe and Japan and 50 percent of U.S. industrial activity depend on this.

A correspondent asked the shah's views on the developments in Africa and Iran's role in this continent, as well as about the degree to which Iran is prepared to confront these developments. The shah said: I think when I was talking about the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean I answered part of your question, for some of the African countries are located on the Red Sea and some others, in eastern Africa, on the Indian Ocean. All these issues are somehow related. We have relations with both East and West. We are a loyal member of the United Nations. We also support (?detente), but you cannot have detente in one part of the world while another part of the world is subjected to disorder. Detente must be universal, otherwise it would be meaningless.

A correspondent referred to recent violent incidents and measures in Iran and asked the shah's views on the extent to which these opposition activities, which have upset the shah, are a danger to Iran's stability. The shah said: First of all I would like to ask who told you I have been upset. I was not upset at all. I personally believe that maximum freedom of expression should exist within the country. But not chaos, of course. We are endeavoring to encourage the participation of the majority of the people in a national dialog about everything, from matters affecting their daily life to political issues. We have started in villages, and are going from there to small towns, big cities and, eventually, the capital. When we told our people: You are completely free to speak your minds, we were aware of the fact that, as always, this alliance, which we call an unholy alliance, existed between the black reaction and red revolutionaries, for their common interests lie in preventing the country's progress. Of course, the black reaction has its own particular reasons and the red its own. Their objective, however, is the same--that the country should be turned backward rather than forward. Thus, even though we were aware of their collaboration, we decided to continue our policy because they are only a few. They cannot pose a real problem to the country's security because you--of course I don't mean you here, but others from the media--publish reports of an antigovernment demonstration even if there are only three people involved. By contrast, however, no one makes mention of, say, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrating in support of the government. You will see, therefore, that the Tabriz incidents involving 500 people, or several thousand people, who poured into the streets were covered by all newspapers, but no one took the slightest interest in the 300,000-strong demonstration in Tabriz. We shall, therefore, continue our liberalization policy because I want it this way, and I will make sure that everything remains under control, for one can always go back, easily, but I will refrain from doing this insofar as possible.

A correspondent asked: Your Majesty, in talks with His Excellency Walter Scheel, was the human rights question discussed? The shah said: No, for if you bring up the question of human rights in Iran I can raise the same question about your country.

A correspondent said: Your Majesty, your oil resources will be exhausted some day. I would like to know how prepared you are to compensate for this. The shah said: Yes, unfortunately our oil resources will last only another 25 years. In the meantime I hope, insofar as possible, to industrialize our country.

Fortunately, nature has bestowed much natural wealth upon us. We possess iron ore, coal, alumites, copper, lead, tin and other resources, and we also have vast quantities of gas. On the other hand, unfortunately, we have a relatively dry country with poor rainfall. However, we are a country suitable for producing atomic energy, and since we can produce a large quantity of atomic energy in our country, we have no problems or fears in the field of electricity. On the industrial front, too, we have nothing to worry about, for we possess in our own country the foundation and raw materials needed for industrialization. As for the population of our country, in time we shall have between 60 and 65 million people, which is the population required to establish a first-rate industrial country.

A correspondent said: You said Iran was a suitable country for atomic energy production. I would like to ask you, bearing that in mind, are you planning to conclude another agreement with the FRG for the purchase of two more nuclear power stations? The shah said: Many more than two power stations. Currently we are negotiating for the purchase of six more stations, in addition to the power stations being built in Bushehr.

In answer to a correspondent's question on his views on oil prices, particularly in the light of the recent decline in the value of the dollar, the shah said: This is a problem faced by all oil-producing countries. Of course, we don't have too much of a problem because we spend large amounts of dollars in the United States. It is perhaps a greater problem for others. Our purchasing power last year was reduced by about 25 percent as a result of the decline in the value of the dollar. I think the average dollar depreciation comes to about this figure.

The same correspondent asked: Do you think that oil-producing countries will increase oil prices because of the fall in the value of the dollar? The shah said: I can only speak for ourselves in this regard. We do not intend to ask for higher prices. At the beginning of the current year we said we would try to freeze oil prices for 1978, but OPEC has 13 members. I am confident that we and Saudi Arabia will not insist on any oil price increase or any switch from the dollar as a unit of payment. Many others, however, either support price increases or switching to the IMF's Special Drawing Rights as a unit for oil payments. The future will clarify the situation. I repeat once again, however, that the world must solve two problems: one is the problem of energy which is known to us, and other possibilities that may exist; the other problem is a monetary one, which to some extent is related to the problem of energy.

At this point a correspondent asked: Did the shah's answer to the question on 1978 oil prices also apply to 1979? The shah said: I don't know anything about 1979, for this depends on the world market situation. If the world economy does expand, then I am sorry to say that you will need more oil because you will not yet have found something to replace it. As long as the price of a material to replace oil is not economical, you will not look for a replacement, not while oil is so easily accessible to you.

A correspondent asked about Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia, and Iran's position in the Middle East conflict. The shah said: We have always had very good relations with Saudi Arabia. At the present time I should say that perhaps our relations have never been better. As for our position on the Middle East conflict, we have always supported Resolutions 242, 338 and UN Security Council Resolution 425 on Lebanon. We support His Excellency Anwar as-Sadat's initiative and believe he has made a courageous move. We believe he is working for peace and that he is sincere. We hope Israel will show more understanding than in the past, otherwise we will witness changes in this part of the world which we will not like.

A correspondent asked: Does the shah support a Palestinian state? The shah said: Everyone has an idea of his own. I cannot say with certainty what I want. I have always pursued my own particular policy, for in this way I have been able to prevent any conflict between what I was in the past and what I am today, or what I will be in the future. I say that Resolution 242 says Israel should return the territory captured from the Arabs to the countries which owned it. The West Bank was captured from Jordan; the Israelis must give it back to Jordan. Then Jordan will know what to do with the Palestinians. They should consult the Palestinians, and I am confident King Husayn respects the aspirations of the West Bank people and those of the Palestinians. Why should we create a problem which the Israelis would have to solve with the Palestinians? This would make matters more difficult. I may be mistaken, but this is my view.

A correspondent asked the shah about Iran's relations with South Africa, particularly in the economic field. The shah said: from the economic point of view, our relations with South Africa are similar to those with all other countries of the world. These relations have no influence upon our opposition to apartheid, which is no longer practicable today. We hope that South Africa accepts the five-power mediation proposals.

A correspondent said: Your Majesty, Iran has purchased its arms largely from the United States so far. I would like to know the extent to which Iran is prepared to turn to the Soviet Union for arms purchases. The shah said: We are not buying arms from the United States alone. In the past, too, we have purchased arms from the Soviet Union.

The correspondent said: But much more money has been spent on arms purchased from the United States. The shah said: Yes, certainly, because the arms we buy from the United States, such as aircraft, are very expensive. But we buy arms from Britain, France and Germany too. In particular, we may purchase larger numbers of frigates and submarines from the FRG. You will see, therefore, that we have diversified sources of supply for our naval craft. We do not purchase arms from one country alone. But, at the same time, we will try to produce whatever we can at home.

A correspondent asked about the role that Iran is ready to play in the world in the future. He said: Does the shah intend to have a role to play in this part of the world as a world statesman? The shah said: This is not an attractive role. The people are never grateful for advice being given them or aid granted them. They get upset even if this advice or this aid were actually helping them. However, I must say that within 10 years our country will reach the level of many advanced European countries today. Thus you can visualize a country with a population of 50 million people and capacities of a modern European country in this part of the world and come to your own conclusion.

FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL CONCLUDES VISIT TO IRAN

LD240847Y Hamburg DPA in German 0809 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Teheran--President Walter Scheel concluded his 4-day state visit to Iran on Monday and left by air for Bonn. Scheel and his wife were seen off at Teheran Airport by the shah and shahbanu.

Before his departure the president met representatives of German-Iranian associations in Teheran and members of the German community.

Notes Usefulness of Talks

LD251817Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 25 Apr 78 LD

[Text] In an interview with correspondents at Mehrabad Airport prior to his departure His Excellency Walter Scheel, president of the FRG, referred to his talks with the shahanshah aryamehr as "extremely useful" and said that these talks encompassed the political issues faced by the modern world. Referring to the appreciable outcome of the talks between the two countries' delegations in the course of this trip, the FRG president noted Iran's effective role in safeguarding stability in the region and said: From the economic standpoint Iran enjoys special significance and, ineed, this is the best opportunity for the FRG to expand its relations with Iran in all areas. He emphasized that Iran's excellent position for preserving the security and stability of the region is conducive to strengthening the foundations of world peace.

Emphasizing Iran's moderate role in establishing the price of oil--this exhaustible commodity--His Excellency Walter Scheel said: With this manner of thinking Iran demonstrates that it is aware of and fully understands the point that sudden changes in the price of oil bring about huge problems in the stability of world economy.

His Excellency Walter Scheel then referred to the bright horizon of the areas existing for the two countries' cooperation, saying: Joint capital investment by German and Iranian investors could bring about even better possibilities in this field.

In the interview, which lasted over half an hour, His Excellency, the FRG president, speaking optimistically about the outcome of his fruitful talks with Iran's illustrious leader, said: During this visit we obtained positive and good results, became better acquainted with each other's problems and paved the way for expansion of these relations on all levels and in a positive direction.

Referring to the subject of detente, His Excellency Walter Scheel said: Of course, one should remember that Iran's role toward this end is of the utmost importance in the region and that one should have an appreciation of this, for otherwise, (?should) a confrontation take place in the region, it would have a negative effect on world peace and security. We support peace throughout the world just as much as we attach importance to this issue in Europe.

In reply to the question of whether Iran will purchase submarines from the FRG, His Excellency Walter Scheel gave a positive reply, but emphasized that their number had not yet been specified.

His Excellency Walter Scheel then said: We are seeking ways to counterbalance the increase in arms of the Warsaw Pact member-countries; and at the same time I wish to add that Germany and its allies, particularly the United States, are striving to convince the Warsaw Pact members and the USSR that whenever armaments, particularly nuclear armaments, are reduced or controlled, the world will be a better place .

Saying that such happenings would reduce world problems and issues, His Excellency Walter Scheel concluded his interview with the representatives of the Iranian press and mass media.

AFGHANISTAN

AFGAN COMMUNIST LEADER REPORTEDLY SHOT 17 APRIL

OW251856Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1747 GMT 25 Apr 78 OW

[Text] Islamabad, April 25 (AFP)--One of the founders of the pro-Soviet Afghanistan Communist Group Parcham, Aqbar Khabir, was murdered in Kabul on Monday, April 17, travellers coming from Afghanistan said here.

The funeral of the victim, who was aged about 60, was attended by several thousand people and turned into an anti-American demonstration, with friends of the deceased waving red flags and shouting anti-CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) slogans, the travellers said.

Political parties are banned in Afghanistan, and no official comment was made on the event.

The motive and the circumstances of the attack were not known, but it is believed Mr. Aqbar was shot. This was the third assassination of a political nature to be reported from Afghanistan in six months. Planning Minister Ali Ahmad Khoram was killed at the door of his ministry last November. Several weeks earlier, an Afgan Airlines captain, a known trade unionist, was shot dead in a street.

BANGLADESH

NAP-BHASHANI TO SUPPORT ZIA IN PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

BK251425Y Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Apr 78 p 1 BK

[Excerpt] Mr Mashiur Rahman (Jadu Miah), chairman of the Bangladesh National Awami Party Bhashani said that his party would extend support to President Ziaur Rahman in the ensuing presidential election. He, however, suggested that to end the present controversy on the form of government President Zia should seek the mandate of the people on constitutional points in the coming elections.

He was addressing a rally organised by Jatiya Jubo Dal [National Youth Party] on Wednesday at the Mahbub Ali Institute in observance of the protest day against corruption and bribery. The rally was presided over by Mr Khorshed Alam, convener of the Jubo Dal.

INDIA

GANDHI RULES OUT CONGRESS-I, CONGRESS MERGER

BK241016Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mrs Gandhi, has ruled out the party merging with the Congress. Speaking at a news conference in Kozhikode, she claimed that her party is the real Congress.

Asked why the Congress-I formed an alliance in Maharashtra with the Congress, Mrs Gandhi said it was at the initiative of the Congress.

The Congress-I leader said her party will organize a movement against the alleged repression of Harijans [untouchables] in different parts of the country.

Speaking at a public meeting in Kozhikode, Mrs Gandhi criticized the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] for supporting the Janata Party government, which, she said, is following a reactionary policy.

GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT MRS GANDHI TO TRAVEL ABROAD

BK251552Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The government has decided to issue a passport to Mrs Gandhi. According to official sources in New Delhi, the decision has been conveyed to her. She has, however, been asked for certain information about the duration of her trip abroad.

Mrs Gandhi had applied for a passport for going to Zurich to take part in an international conference on disarmament.

DELHI COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES NUCLEAR FUEL ISSUE

BK251102Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Commentary by S.S. Gupta]

[Text] The news that the four-man U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission had on Thursday [20 April] turned down, in a 2 to 2 tie vote, India's application for the release of shipment of 7.6 tons of enriched uranium for the Tarapore Nuclear Power Plant is at once shocking, saddening and surprising.

It is shocking because it means the breach of a solemn agreement and the contract signed between the two countries in October 1963. Under the agreement the United States undertook to supply enriched uranium to this country for its atomic power plant at Tarapore for the next 30 years ending in 1994. But even before the agreement has run half its course it has been observed to be breached.

The U.S. commission's decision is saddening because after the Janata government's assumption of office at the center and the American Government's expression of happiness at the revival of democracy in this country, the government and people of India had hoped for a long and bright future of fruitful cooperation between India and the United States. The U.S. decision has served to disillusion this very large body of well-wishers of India-United States relations and of the growing friendship and understanding between the two countries.

The news is surprising because during his visit to this country in January this year, President Carter had promised to send 7.6 tons of enriched uranium to India without delay. Public opinion here finds it a bit hard to understand the reason for the breach of this specific promise which the U.S. President had made to the people of this country in a public statement. In their view it is a serious reflection as much on the credibility of American policies as on the standards of U.S. political morality.

An idea of the extent of Indian public reaction to the rejection of the U.S. commission of India's request for the supply of enriched uranium can be had from Prime Minister Mr Morarji Desai's statement in Parliament on Monday [24 April] and the bitter criticism voiced by agitated members from all sides of the house. Expressing his government's disquiet, disbelief and concern at Washington's delay in complying with India's request for uranium fuel, Mr Desai said that he was taking up the matter with the U.S. Government. He made it clear that whatever the circumstances, the U.S. refusal of supply will be a clear breach of the 1963 agreement between India and the United States. He pointed out that he has still not lost all hope, as the U.S. Government has not yet refused the supply of uranium to this country. Even the Nuclear Regulatory Commission had not refused the license for supplying uranium, but referred it back to the U.S. Government as it could not come to a specific decision.

The Indian prime minister further said that the matter now rested with the U.S. President; and he hoped that Mr Carter, actuated as he is by high moral purpose and in conformity with his obligations under the agreement and contract and in fulfillment of the promise given to India during his last visit, will reach an early positive decision. While hoping for the best, Mr Desai made the affirmation that in the event of a breach of the agreement, India would be free to get nuclear fuel from alternative sources and recycle residual fuel.

However, like the mature statesman that he is, Mr Desai turned down a suggestion that he should postpone his visit to the United States as a mark of protest. In support of the stand, the Indian prime minister said that he did not believe in the philosophy of tit for tat. On the other hand, he believed in doing work in the best way possible without being influenced by pressures from anyone, not even the whole world. He said that he was going to the United States to attend the UN disarmament conference, and he saw no reason to postpone the visit owing to the U.S. decision on nuclear supplies to this country.

By his statement, Mr Desai has put the responsibility heavily on the shoulders of the U.S. President. The future of Indo-U.S. nuclear cooperation will depend largely on the manner in which Mr Carter handles the situation. But it is hoped that India's long-standing cooperation in the nuclear field with the United States will not be allowed to end and the U.S. President will act positively and promptly.

PRESS COMMENTS ON DELAY OF U.S. NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY

BK251505Y Delhi ISI in English 1438 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Excerpt] Following are some of the editorial comments appearing in the Indian press on the subject of the delay in U.S. supply of enriched uranium to the Tarapore plant:

The INDIAN EXPRESS April 24 under editorial "End This Dependence" wrote:

In any case India is under notice that the United States has no intention to honour the 30-year agreement for the supply of enriched uranium. The cutoff date is only 18 months away when no further deliveries will be made by the United States unless India accepts "full-scope" international inspection of its nuclear installations. India's principled objection to such inspection is on the score of discrimination. Since the principle cannot be abandoned India must now take immediate steps to end the dependence of its nuclear programme on the United States. It is not that other sources for enriched uranium do not exist. There must be no further hesitation in exploring them. At the same time the unilateral U.S. move in tearing up its contractual commitments must be taken to free India from the obligation of joint determination in the reprocessing of the fuel waste from Tarapore.

The NATIONAL HERALD April 24 under editorial "Fuel for Tarapore" wrote:

The United States does not want to fulfill her contractual obligations when such a policy suits her. The Tarapore agreement committed Washington to a guaranteed 30-year supply of enriched uranium fuel. That commitment is now being ignored. Another strange aspect of the whole episode is that since the new U.S. Nuclear Nonproliferation Act will come into force only a year and a half from now there is little justification for Washington to back out from its commitment. It is apparent that the United States is adopting a double standard in her nuclear policy. She has no moral qualms to manufacture nuclear weapons and also to meet the nuclear requirements of her allies in the West. She is morally pricked only when the requirements of the Third World are concerned.

MALDIVES

SRI LANKA ASKED TO HELP REORGANIZE FOREIGN MINISTRY

BK2416S1Y Colombo SUN in English 19 Apr 78 p 1 BK

[Text] The Government of Maldives has sought the assistance of Sri Lanka to help organise its Foreign Ministry on a bigger footing.

The 'SUN' reliably understands that the Maldivian request was conveyed yesterday to Foreign Minister Mr A.C.S. Hameed by the visiting foreign minister of Maldives, Mr Fathullah Jameel. Mr Jameel, who assumed office only recently, had a round of talks with Mr Hameed yesterday. This was his first official visit abroad since assuming office.

The Maldivian foreign minister, it is learnt, has also indicated that they would soon reopen the Maldivian diplomatic mission in Sri Lanka.

With the reorganisation of its Foreign Ministry, the Maldivian Government hopes to train more personnel to man its proposed missions abroad.

NEPAL

BISTA RETURNS TO KATMANDU FROM VISIT TO INDIA

BK2515S5Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista returned home today at the end of the 11-day goodwill visit to India at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai. On arrival at the Tribhuvan airport from Patna this morning, the prime minister was received by the chief justice, the chairman of the Rashtriya Panchayat, the chairman of the Standing Committee of the Raj Sabha, ministers, [words indistinct], members of the diplomatic corps and other distinguished persons. A contingent of the Royal Nepal Army presented a guard of honor to the prime minister on the occasion. Mrs Bodh Kumari Bista, wife of the prime minister, also returned to the capital today.

Talking to newsmen at the Tribhuvan airport, Prime Minister Bista said that there is a greater realization in India now on what Nepal is doing for her development under the leadership of his majesty the king. Mr Bista said his visit, intended as a tour for keeping the understanding between the two countries, has been beneficial, fruitful and useful.

Prime Minister Bista further said that India is willing to extend all possible help to Nepal in her bid to attain self-reliance and added that an interdisciplinary team to explore setting up of industries would visit Nepal shortly. He said India is also willing to help Nepal in areas other than agriculture and horticulture development projects and cement factories.

Prime Minister Bista said he had very cordial talks with Prime Minister Desai and other Indian leaders.

He concluded his remarks that the visit has further consolidated the relationship existing between the two countries.

PAKISTAN

NAVAL CHIEF LEAVES FOR PRC VISIT 23 APRIL

BK231526Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Pakistan naval chief, Adm Mohammad Sharif, left Rawalpindi for Peking this evening on an 8-day goodwill visit to the PRC. During his stay in the PRC, he will visit important Chinese naval bases and installations.

LIBYAN NAVY CHIEF DEPARTS KARACHI AFTER 6-DAY VISIT

BK241003Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 24 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The commander in chief of the Libyan Navy, Muqaddam Abd al-Latif ash-Shakshuki left Karachi this morning for home after a 6-day visit to Pakistan.

SRI LANKA

FIVE CARGO VESSELS PURCHASED FROM USSR

BK251331Y Colombo SUN in English 21 Apr 78 p 1 BK

[By P. Balasuriya]

[Text] The government yesterday concluded a multimillion dollar deal for the purchase of five cargo vessels from the Soviet Union at a cost of $9 million each.

These vessels--three 15,000-ton dwt and two 5,000-ton dwt vessels--will strengthen the existing fleet of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation. The three larger vessels will operate on the corporation's UK-continent route while the other two will ply the Far Eastern routes.

The operation of these additional vessels on the two key routes, the Ministry of Shipping, Aviation and Tourism believes, will result in considerable savings in foreign exchange to the country. The agreement in respect of these vessels was signed yesterday by the minister of shipping, aviation and tourism, Mrs Wimala Kannangara on behalf of Sri Lanka and a special official from the Soviet Union who flew to Colombo for this purpose.

Though the corporation at present operates its existing vessels on these routes, state institutions and the private sector have been compelled to turn to foreign vessels to carry Sri Lanka's cargo due to the lack of an adequate local fleet.

It is also the view of the ministry that with the free trade zone coming into operation soon, cargo handling will have to be accelerated, and, as such, the addition of new vessels to the existing fleet is a vital necessity. This will also provide more prospects of employment for youth who have adequate experience in merchant shipping but cannot be absorbed into the existing fleet of ships, according to ministry officials.

With the addition of these five vessels, the corporation will have 14 vessels in its fleet. The corporation already has eight cargo vessels and one tanker.

Among the other countries that tendered for the new deal were Japan, Britain, Norway and Sweden.

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